

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents
September 16, 2010

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan
and Sakai Foundation

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into the Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration while reviewing the research agreement. This then triggered a review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by this Committee and agreed to by the parties involved in this plan.

This proposed research agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Charles Severance is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and serves on the Sakai Foundation's Board of Directors. The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Background:

Dr. Charles Severance, Clinical Assistant Professor of Information, School of Information, is the Principal Investigator on a Prime award from the Sakai Foundation. Dr. Severance also serves on Sakai's Board of Directors.

Nature of the Agreement:

This is an extension of an agreement between the University of Michigan and the Sakai Foundation ("Company") and serves to formalize an understanding of the working relationship between faculty and staff in the Collaboration Technologies Lab (CoLab) of the Digital Media Commons at the University of Michigan and the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors. This agreement has University of Michigan providing community support services to the Company under the terms of a foundation grant provided by the Company. The effort for services provided will be by Dr. Charles Severance, School of Information, serving as Principal Investigator.

Terms of the Agreement:

The terms of the proposed Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance is July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Standard disclaimers of warranties and indemnification apply, and the Agreement may be amended by consent of the parties. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

Pecuniary Interest:

The pecuniary interests of Dr. Severance arise from his serving on Sakai's Board of Directors.

Impact of the Agreement:

This Agreement will enable the University to complete the project. At Sakai Board meetings, Dr. Severance agrees to recuse himself from decisions related to this agreement; however, as PI of the contract, he may discuss fundamental aspects of this research with appropriate representatives of The Sakai Foundation as necessary.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Agreement between the University and the Sakai Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen R. Forrest
Vice President for Research

September 2010